



City Administrator's Report

November 2009

Dear Reader,

Each month, this report from the City Administrator's Office provides a brief summary and update of major activities, events, projects, and programs that impact the Santa Barbara community. Feel free to send me your comments and suggestions.

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Key Meetings

City Council Meetings

Tuesday, November 24th and December 8th at 2 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers at 735 Anacapa Street.

Community Events

City and County Project Clean Water Rain Barrel Sale

Saturday, November 21st from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on the corner of Shoreline and Loma Alta Drives.

City Offices Closed Due to Employee Furlough

Wednesday, November 25th and Monday, December 21st through Friday, January 1st.

Thanksgiving Holiday

Thursday, November 26th and Friday, November 27th. City Offices closed.

Flood Preparedness Meetings

Thursday, November 19th at 6 p.m. at the Franklin Neighborhood Center at 1136 East Montecito Street.

Thursday, December 10th at 6 p.m. in the Central Library Faulkner Gallery at 40 East Anapamu Street.

Flags on State Street

Visiting Nurse and Hospice Care

November 13th to 24th

Unity Shoppe

November 24th to December 8th

City Administrator's Office

Two Week Closure Planned for City Offices. Most City administrative offices will be closed from Monday, December 21, 2009 through Friday, January 1, 2010 due to furlough, or unpaid leave, for employees. In addition to other scheduled furlough days, City employees will take an unpaid leave during the holiday period to achieve a significant cost savings in the Fiscal Year 2010 Budget.

While most administrative offices will be closed, many services will continue to be available, including harbor patrol, building inspections, and critical repair services for parks, streets, water, and sewer. The 9-1-1 dispatch service for police and fire emergencies will also continue operating during this time. The City's airport, marina, golf course, public parking lots, and selected community centers and recreation facilities will remain open. The Central and Eastside Libraries will be closed with the exception of a few dates. For a detailed schedule of office closures visit: www.SantaBarbaraCA.gov.

Are You Prepared for Possible Floods? Due to recent wild fires that burned in the areas above the City, heavy rains may result in flooding or mudslides. The public is invited to attend an informational meeting to plan for heavy rains and possible flooding conditions this winter. Residents will learn how local agencies are preparing for a flood emergency and how to protect their properties. The meeting will be held on Thursday, December 10th at the Downtown Library Faulkner Gallery, 40 East Anapamu Street at 6 p.m. For more information, visit the City's website at: www.SantaBarbaraCA.gov/OES.

Inside Santa Barbara. *Inside Santa Barbara* is the City's television program that informs the public about significant issues, projects, and events. The November episode covers the seismic renovation of Fire Station 1, the Great California Shakeout, new oil spill containment equipment, the City's water supply, and the West Beach Pedestrian Improvement Project. *Inside Santa Barbara* airs on City TV Channel 18 on Mondays at 8 and 8:30 p.m.; Tuesdays at 5 and 5:30 p.m.; Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m.; Saturdays at 9 and 9:30 p.m.; and Sundays at 10 and 10:30 p.m. To view an episode of *Inside Santa Barbara* visit: www.CityTV18.com.

City Budget Adjustments. Facing revenue shortfalls in the Fiscal year 2009 and 2010 budgets, City Council approved budget adjustments this month for both fiscal years. The balancing strategies include a combination of mid-year department budget cuts, keeping vacant positions unfilled, and the use of one-time funds. In January, City departments will begin preparing Fiscal Year 2011 recommended budgets for Council review.

Administrative Services Department

Vote-By-Mail General Municipal Election. The City's 2009 General Municipal Election was a Vote-By-Mail Election. There was a 49.59% voter turnout, with 23,167 people casting votes out of the 46,718 registered voters in the City of Santa Barbara.

Semi-official election results are shown below. These numbers will become official when they are certified by the City Council on Tuesday, November 24th.

Mayoral Candidates	Total Votes
Helene Schneider	10,433 ✓
Dale Francisco	7,684
Steve Cushman	3,696
Isaac Garret	484
Bob Hansen	420

Council Candidates	Total Votes
Grant House	9,679 ✓
Harwood "Bendy" White	8,893 ✓
Frank Hotchkiss	7,560 ✓
Michael Self	7,513 ✓
Diane Channing	6,765
David Pritchett	5,580
Cathie McCammon	3,912
John J. Thyne III	3,753
Justin Tevis	2,765
Cruzito Herrera Cruz	2,098
John W. Gibbs	2,072
Lane Anderson	1,414
Bonnie Raisin	926

Ballot Measures	Yes	No
Measure B: Building Heights	10,444	12,237 ✓
Measure C: Parks and Recreation Commission	16,969 ✓	4,633
Measure D: Board of Harbor Commissioners	12,101 ✓	9,104
Measure E: Architectural Board of Review	14,026 ✓	7,321

The new Mayor and Council members will take office on Tuesday, January 12th. To view the results by precincts and other details on this year's election, visit: www.SBCityVote.org.

Airport Department

September Passenger Traffic Down Slightly. Airline passenger traffic at Santa Barbara Airport decreased in September 2009 as compared to September 2008. This September, the Airport served 62,927 passengers, a decrease of 1% when compared to last September's passenger traffic count of 63,576. The highest average passenger loads were aboard the *United* flights to Denver (92.1%) and the *Delta* flights to Salt Lake City (81.8%). Through the third quarter of 2009, passenger traffic at the Airport is down 10.3% overall.

Plan Ahead for Holiday Flights. In anticipation of the nation's most heavily traveled holiday weekend, travelers are reminded to plan ahead and arrive early at the Airline Terminal to ensure a safe and enjoyable holiday travel experience. Travelers should expect more holiday passengers traveling between Friday, November 20th and Tuesday, December 1st. The Airport offers the following tips:

- Plan Ahead – arrive two hours prior to your flight departure time to find parking, check-in with your airline, and go through security screening.
- Pack Smart – know what items are accepted or prohibited through security and on the aircraft. Check www.tsa.gov for more information.
- Parking –Long and short term parking options are available at the terminal. Remote parking is available at Long Term Parking Lot 2 on Lopez Road, off Hollister Avenue near Fairview Ave. All parking lots are automated, accepting payment via cash or credit card. Complimentary shuttle van service is available 24 hours a day, 7 day per week between Lot 2 and the Airline Terminal.

For flight schedules, parking rates and locations, or more information, visit: www.flysba.com.

Community Development Department

One Year Anniversary of the Tea Fire. November 13th marked the one year anniversary of the Tea Fire that destroyed 151 homes in the City. The City has made efforts to assist property owners in the rebuilding process including expedited project review, allowing mobile homes on site during the rebuilding process, and extending the non-conforming rebuild provisions of the Zoning Ordinance to up to three years. All 151 of the properties have had their debris removed and 91 properties have met with the City to discuss the rebuilding process. Overall 47 building permits have been issued, and 14 homes have been completed and re-occupied. Some property owners are rebuilding essentially the same homes, others are making minor design changes or expanding their homes, and some property owners have decided to move on and not rebuild on site.

Apply for Human Services and CDBG Funding. The City is currently soliciting proposals from eligible applicants for Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and Human Services funding. The City is anticipating having approximately \$1.15 million in new and reprogrammed CDBG funding. The City has also made a funding commitment of \$703,256 for the Human Services Program that provide direct social services to low income city residents. Applications can be obtained at the Community Development Department on 630 Garden Street or at www.SantaBarbaraCA.gov. Applications are due on December 16th by 3 p.m. For more information, call 564-5461.

Planning Commission Plan Santa Barbara Meeting. The Planning Commission met on Thursday, November 19th for a work session to discuss *Plan Santa Barbara*. *Plan Santa Barbara* is a broad-based public outreach process that focuses on future growth and development. During the work session, specific items discussed included a proposed land use map, land use designations, unit sizes, and maximum residential density. For more information visit: www.YouPlanSB.org, or to view the meeting on-line visit: www.SantaBarbaraCA.gov.

Finance Department

October Transient Occupancy Tax. The October Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT) was down by 10.0% from the prior October, marking the 14th consecutive month of TOT declines. While August and September TOT results slightly exceeded revised projections, October TOT

fell short of the projected 7.7% decline. Year-to-date, TOT is down 13.7% from the previous year. For fiscal year 2010, the revised TOT estimate is \$11,351,970 and assumes an overall 5.7% decline from the prior year. With October's results, the TOT budget is anticipated to meet the revised revenue estimate by year-end.

New Solid Waste Rates. To accomplish the City's diversion goals, new business rates for trash and recycling took effect on November 1st. The new rates have been designed to reduce landfilled waste, provide incentives for businesses to recycle, and begin a new service for foodscrap collection and composting. The bill layout has been updated and formatted so that trash and recycling services are itemized and easier for customers to understand. For an explanation on how to save money under the new rates, visit: www.SBRecycles.org.

Fire Department

City Fire Chief Appointed. After a nationwide recruitment, Andy DiMizio has been appointed the new City Fire Chief. DiMizio will oversee 113 employees in fire suppression, prevention, inspection, and emergency services. DiMizio brings 35 years of fire service to the position. In addition to experience with the U.S. Forest Service, he has served the City as Firefighter, Fire Engineer, Captain, Battalion Chief, and Deputy Fire Chief. More recently, DiMizio served as Interim City Fire Chief and coordinated City fire operations during the Jesusita Fire.

Thanksgiving Safety. The Fire Department would like to remind residents to be safe during the holiday. The use of turkey fryers is discouraged. If you choose to fry a turkey, follow directions carefully, always use the fryer outdoors and place it on a solid, level surface safely away from buildings and flammable materials. Residents should never use fryers on a wooden deck or in a garage and should never leave the fryer unattended. While frying, people should use safety goggles and insulated oven mitts, wear long-sleeved clothing, and keep fire extinguishers within reach. If a fire occurs, call 9-1-1 immediately.

Library Department

On-Line Resource Training Classes. The Central Library is now offering bi-weekly classes on Saturday mornings to teach patrons how to use the online resources available through the Library website. One-hour classes are being offered on catalog searching, how to download audio books to home computers, finding business information using Reference USA, and how to use basic techniques for searching historical records. Classes are held in the computer lab and taught by a reference librarian.

Artist Peace Chair. An Artist Peace Chair was installed in the Children's area of the Central Santa Barbara Public Library. The Peace Chair Project was established to "provide creative space for non-punitive conflict resolution," by placing artist peace chairs in elementary schools, libraries and other similar public venues. It is hoped that this accessible public art serves to develop a culture of peace and facilitates learning. The wooden chair created by artist Catalina McIsaac, has a collage of images and the words, "Peace Chair" and "There is no way to peace. Peace is the way," inscribed. The Peace Chair Project is sponsored by the Santa Barbara

Cultural Development Foundation and partially funded by a Santa Barbara County Arts Commission Grant. For more information visit: www.peacechairproject.org

Parks and Recreation

Rain Barrels for Sale. The City, along with County Project Clean Water, will be holding a Rain Barrel Sale on Saturday, November 21st. Rain Barrels collect rain water and store it for later landscape irrigation use. The event will take place from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Parking Lot 3 of Santa Barbara City College at the corner of Shoreline and Loma Alta Drives. The 55-gallon system rain barrels have a \$120 value and will be sold for \$50. Only cash and checks will be accepted. For more information, contact the Creeks Division at 897-2606.

Applications for Community Garden Plots. The City is accepting applications for garden plots for the next rental cycle, which is December 15, 2009 through December 14, 2010. Limited openings are available at Rancheria, Yanonali, and Pilgrim Terrace Community Gardens. The annual rental cost is \$60 for city residents and \$73 for non-city residents. The gardens provide residents with accessible and low-cost garden plots to grow organic vegetables, herbs and flowers. The deadline to apply is Tuesday, December 1st. For applications visit: www.SantaBarbaraCA.gov

Oak Grove Trail Repaired at Douglas Family Preserve. The Land Trust for Santa Barbara County provided grant funding to repair the Oak Grove Trail, which connects the public parking lot east of Arroyo Burro County Park to the Mesa area of the Douglas Family Preserve. The Oak Grove Trail was mostly composed of degraded asphalt from the old nursery road. The popular trail now has smoother tread, which makes it more convenient for hikers and also reduces erosion. The improvements were made by the Santa Barbara County Trails Council.

Benefit Contributes to Parks and Recreation Community (PARC) Foundation. The PARC Foundation was chosen as the non-profit recipient for the grand opening of Santa Barbara's Whole Foods Market last month. The store raised \$4,079 for the PARC Foundation. The amount was based on 5% of the proceeds from sales on October 14th. PARC board members and Parks and Recreation Department staff were on-hand at the grand opening to educate customers about projects and programs. PARC will use the funds to help support and enhance parks and recreation programs.

New Playground Scheduled for Eastside Neighborhood Park. Each year, the City applies for Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Entitlement funds through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. The City will receive CDBG funding for a new playground in the Eastside Neighborhood Park at Soledad and Yanonali Streets. Construction for this new playground will begin in the next few months and is expected to be completed in early spring of 2010.

Kids World Temporarily Closed. Due to its annual site refurbishment, the Kid's World playground structure at Garden and Micheltorena streets is temporarily closed. City crews are power washing the entire wood structure, adding wood preservative and new sand, and freshening up the playground site. Depending on the weather, Kid's World is expected to reopen by Tuesday, November 24th.

Police Department

DUI Collision Results in Major Injuries. On October 17th at 1:10 a.m., a driver in a BMW was traveling northbound on 900 Alameda Padre Serra at a suspected high speed, lost control of his car, and struck an embankment. The impact of the accident caused major damage to the right side of the car and also caused the right-front tire to break loose. Despite the damage and missing tire, the driver continued on Alameda Padre Serra, struck a cement guard rail, traveled airborne, and dropped 66 feet down an embankment. The 42-year-old female driver suffered a major head injury and the 49-year-old male passenger suffered moderate internal injuries. Both were admitted to Santa Barbara Cottage Hospital. The driver was charged with driving under the influence.

Suspected DUI Accident. On October 27th at 1:40 a.m., the police responded to a traffic collision in the area of 3600 Foothill Road. Police found a blue 2003 Ford Ranger pick-up truck lying on its side against a Southern California Edison pole. The only occupant was a 23-year-old man trapped in the driver's seat. The driver was removed from the vehicle by fire and paramedic personnel and transported to Cottage Hospital for a severe head injury. He is expected to fully recover. The investigation determined that the driver was traveling eastbound on Foothill Road at high speed, drifted to the right, and struck a parked Toyota Camry. The Camry rolled into a front yard and the pick-up truck rolled several times and traveled 153 feet before coming to rest against the Edison pole. Both vehicles were totaled and drunk driving is suspected.

Suicides Prevented. On October 7th at 8:45 p.m., a police officer was driving through City Lot 10 on East Ortega Street. On the top level of the parking structure, he spotted two women, 19 and 21 years old, sitting on an elevated wall with their legs dangling over the edge. The officer recognized the 21-year-old woman from a prior attempted suicide incident on September 23rd. Both women had razor blades and threatened to jump. After another officer arrived on the scene to assist and pull one of the women to safety, the other woman voluntarily stepped down. Both women were taken to Cottage Hospital for psychiatric counseling.

Public Works Department

Mission Creek Bridge Replacement Projects. The City has received funding from the Federal Highway Bridge Program to begin designing the Chapala, Cota, and Mason Street Bridges along Mission Creek. The bridges will be replaced in concert with the Lower Mission Creek Flood Control Project to increase flood water conveyance capacity and enhance recreational opportunities and riparian habitat. Bridge replacement is a multi-year process that includes design, right-of-way acquisition, and construction. Construction of the Chapala Bridge is scheduled for 2011. If federal funding is authorized for construction, work on the Cota and Mason Bridges will begin in 2012.

Carrillo Recreation Center Gets a Facelift. The Carrillo Recreation Center was originally built in 1913 and is a designated historic landmark. On September 29th, the City Council awarded the construction contract for the rehabilitation of the Carrillo Recreation Center at 100 East Carrillo Street. Construction is scheduled to start this month and will last approximately thirteen months. Comprehensive rehabilitation of the building includes structural upgrades, a

new elevator and wheelchair lifts, remodeled restrooms, improvements to mechanical, plumbing, and electrical systems, and a new fire alarm system. Many of its original architectural features will be restored. The project will incorporate green building materials and construction techniques to achieve LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certification. The center provides over 25 different programs and activities through the City's Parks and Recreation Department to the local community and receives over 100,000 visits each year. The project cost is \$5.6 million and is entirely funded by the Redevelopment Agency.

West Downtown Pedestrian Improvements. Construction of the West Downtown Pedestrian Improvement Project started in early September, with the goal of improving pedestrian safety and enhancing the neighborhood along the Ortega and Anapamu corridors. Eight intersections will be improved from Castillo to Chapala Streets along Ortega and Anapamu Streets. The intersection at the corner of Chapala and Ortega Streets is approximately 90% complete and is now open to traffic. Landscaping at the intersection is scheduled to be completed by the end of November. All intersection improvements are expected to be complete by March 2010.

Waterfront Department

Parading Around: Annual Event to Light Up Harbor. The Annual Parade of Lights will be held on Sunday, December 13th and will be presented by the City, Stearns Wharf Business Association, Santa Barbara Harbor Merchants Association, and the Santa Barbara Maritime Museum. Festivities begin at 3 p.m. with Santa's Village on the City pier. The boat parade begins at 5:30 p.m. with a tree lighting ceremony on the shoreward finger of Stearns Wharf. Approximately 35 boats will parade from the Santa Barbara Yacht Club to East Beach and return to be judged in front of Stearns Wharf. The boats will be judged in five categories and prizes will be awarded. The event will end with a short fireworks display. For more information, visit the www.SantaBarbaraCA.gov

Mick Kronman Named Harbor Master of the Year. The California Harbor Masters and Port Captains Association, a 61-year-old professional organization, has named the City's Harbor Operations Manager, Mick Kronman, as its 2009 Harbor Master of the Year. The award recognizes Kronman for developing alternatives for administering the Marine Life Protection Act, his research on regulations affecting California harbors and marinas, and helping to further objectives of the California Harbor Masters and Port Captains Association. This is the second time that Mick has been honored with this award. Mick was first named Harbor Master of the Year in 2001.